

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 AID-05 /021 W

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R 022140Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3161

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: CI, PINT, ELAB

SUBJ: LABOR DAY PASSES WITHOUT INCIDENT

REF: A. SANTIAGO 2787; B. SANTIAGO 3040

ARA/LA/MRSD PASS SUBSTANCE TO AIFLD/W AND AFL-CIO MCCLE
LAN

1. SUMMARY: CHILE OBSERVED PEACEFUL LABOR DAY
WITH VAST MAJORITY OF WORKERS DOING THEIR
WN THING. GOC-
SANCTIONED AFFAIR AT COUPOLICAN THEATER WAS POORLY ATTENDED,
SINCE AUTHORITIES APPARENTLY
MADE LITTLE EFFORT TO
ROUND UP MASSIVE PARTICIPATION. ADDRESSES
OF PRESIDENT
PINOCHET, CARDINAL AND LABOR MINISTER PRODUCED NO SURPRISES
AND FEW DEPARTURES FROM PAST PERFORMANCES.

2. SANTIAGO
CATHEDRAL MASS ATTRACTED OVERFLOW CROW, AS
DID CELEBRATION OF TENIENTE MINE UNION HELD AT MINE SEAT

FRANCAGUA. MANY MAJOR LEADERS FROM OTHER AREAS ATTENDED CELEBRA-
TION AS CONVENIENT WAY TO BOYCOTT
FFICIAL SANTIAGO AFFAIRS.

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3. ANTAGONISTIC MOOD WHICH HAD DEVELOPED

EARLIER IN WEEK

WAS NOT REFLECTED IN MODERATE TONE OF MOST SPOKESMEN FROM
GOC AND LABOR. END SUMMARY.

4. MOST CHILEAN WORKERS SPENT THEIR MAJOR HOLIDAY WITH
FAMILIES

AND FRIENDS OR WERE OCCUPIED IN OTHER CASUAL PURSUITS. NO
INCIDENTS OR PROTEST MANIFESTATIONS WERE REPORTED BY MEDIA, NOR
HAVE WE HEARD OF ANY FROM PRIVATE SOURCES. THOSE AFFAIRS
ORGANIZED BY GOC OR LABOR LIKEWISE PRODUCED NO SURPRISES.

5. SANTIAGO'S LABOR DAY BEGAN WITH CATHEDRAL MASS WHICH
ATTRACTED FULL CAPACITY ATTENDANCE AND ESTIMATED 2 TO 4
THOUSAND UNABLE TO ENTER. THESE MILLED PEACEFULLY ABOUT IN
ADJOINING PLAZA DURING AFFAIR. WE HAVE NOT YET OBTAINED FULL
TEXT, BUT CARDINAL SILVA'S ADDRESS AS REPORTED CONTAINED NOTHING
OUT OF ORDINARY; PRESS REPORTED HE LATER SAID HE "WOULD HAVE
PREFERRED LESS POLICE VIGILANCE"

OF CELEBRATION. HE RECEIVED
OVATION AND REMINDED CONGREGATION THIS WAS NOT POLITICAL MEETING.
MINISTER NICANOR DIAZ APPEARED IN AUDIENCE AT MASS HE HAD
CRITICIZED AND DISCOURAGED EARLIER IN WEEK. MASS INCLUDED
MUSICAL PERFORMANCE BY CATHOLIC YOUNG WORKERS (JUVENTUD
OBRERA CATOLICA), WHICH SEVERAL CLAIMED CARRIED MESSAGES OF
"MILD
PROTEST".

6. CAUPOLICAN THEATER ASSEMBLY FOLLOWED MASS. ATTENDANCE
LOOKED GOOD ON TELEVISION, BUT NO ESTIMATE FROM SOURCES PRESENT
EXCEEDED ONE-QUARTER FULL (SEATING CAPACITY ABOUT 6500) OR TOTAL
1500. MOST RANGED BETWEEN 1000 AND 1200. THREE UNORGANIZING
LEADERS (INCLUDING TENIENTE MINE LEADER GUILLERMO MEDINA)
SPOKE, AS DID MINISTER DIAZ. OTHER THAN MILD CRITICISM BY DIAZ
OF EARLIER MASS'S DEPARTURE FROM
RELIGIOUS NORM, NONE OF SPEECHES
PRODUCED ANYTHING WORTH MENTION.

7. SEVERAL UNION-ORGANIZED SPORTS EVENTS WERE
CONCLUDED AS PLANNED WITHOUT INCIDENT. SANTIAGO LABOR DAY
WAS CAPPED WITH 6 P.M. TELEVISED CEREMONY AT GOC DIEGO
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PORTALES AUDITORIUM, WHERE GENERAL PINOCHET ADDRESSED GROUP
OF 200-300, SIGNED DECREE PROMULGATING SOCIAL STATUTE OF
ENTERPRISE, AND PRESENTED COPIES OF NEW DRAFT
LABOR CODE (ACRGRAM ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW). MRS. PINOCHET
ADDRESSED SEPARATE MEETING OF WOMEN.

8. PROBABLY BEST ATTENDED EVENT OF DAY WAS SPONSORED BY RE-
LATIVELY SMALL (1000 TO 1200 MEMBERS) UNION OF TENIENTE COPPER

REFINERY WORKERS (SINDICATO INDUSTRIAL DE CALETONES-TENIENTE) HELD AT RANCAGUA, SOME 60 MILES SOUTH OF CAPITAL. APPROXIMATELY 9000 PEOPLE APPEARED AT THIS UNION'S 49TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION (REF SANTIAGO 2088 AND STATE 81969 N UNION'S INVITATION TO MEANY). MOST WERE MEMBERS AND WIVES OF OTHER TENIENTE UNIONS, PROBABLY IN PART AT LEAST ATTRACTED BY AMPLE SERVINGS OF BEEF, CHICKEN AND LOCAL CIDER. CROWD ALSO INCLUDED MANY MAJOR LABOR LEADERS FROM SANTIAGO AND OTHER PARTS WHO OPENLY JOKED AT LABATT THAT AFFAIR PROVIDED CONVENIENT EXCUSE TO MISS GOC OFFICIAL AFFAIRS IN SANTIAGO.

9. COMMENT: TENSE ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN GOC AND LABOR LEADERS OF LAST FEW DAYS PRIOR TO LABOR DAY (REFTELS) SEEMED TO HAVE DISSOLVED AS DAY PROCEEDED. ALTHOUGH MOST AFFAIRS INCLUDED WISPS OF BARBED CRITICISM FROM LABOR AND IN CASE OR TWO FROM GOC SPOKESMAN, GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WAS PEACEFUL AND SLIGHTLY CONCILIATORY. GOC'S PRINCIPAL ANTAGONISTS OF LABOR DAY WEEK FOR MOST PART MADE NECESSARY PEACE GESTURES BY OKEN APPEARANCES AT GOC-SPONSORED 6 P.M. GATHERING. LABOR MINISTER DIAZ PULLED IN HIS HORNS IN HIS PRINCIPAL APPEARANCE A CAUPOLICAN THEATER. HIS REMARKS WERE CONSIDERABLY MORE MODERATE THAN HIS PERFORMANCE EARLIER IN WEEK (REF B).

10. POOR CROWD ATTRACTED TO CAUPOLICAN PROBABLY WAS NOT AS EMBARRASSING TO GOC AS I MUST HAVE BEEN TO LEADERS OF HREE HOST ORGANIZATIONS. IT APPEARS THEY MAY HAVE DEPENDED ON GOC O FI L AUDITORIUM, AS IT DID LAST YEAR WITH COMMAND-PERFORMANCE SUMMONS TO GOVERNMENT WORKERS AND MILITARY. WHEN GOC APPARENTLY COOLED ON AFFAIR EARLIER IN WEEK BY ORGANIZING SEPARATE CEREMONY AT DIEGO PORTALES, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LABOR LEADERS WERE LEFT HOLDING BAG. THEIR INABILITY TO PRODUCE CROWD FROM SANTIAGO MEMBERSHIP, WHICH TOTALS IN EXCESS OF 150 THOUSAND, MAY WEAKEN THEIR CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOC.
POPPER

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